

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 3-13 are pending in this application. By this amendment, Claims 1 and 3-4 are amended; Claim 2 is cancelled; and Claims 5-13 are added herewith. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter is added by this amendment.

In the outstanding Office Action Claims 1 and 3 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,782,319 to Woodruff; and Claims 2 and 4 were indicated as including allowable subject matter.

Applicant appreciates the Examiner indicating that Claims 2 and 4 include allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Claim 1 is amended to include the features previously recited in Claim 2, and Claim 4 is amended to include the features of base Claim 1. Accordingly, independent Claims 1 and 4 and corresponding dependent Claims 5-13 are in condition for allowance.

With respect to the rejection of Claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Woodruff, that rejection is respectfully traversed. In particular, Applicant submits that the applied art does not teach or suggest a connecting member pivotally connected to connecting portions of pivot levers, an electromagnetic actuator that moves the connecting member in a first direction for braking and moves the connecting member in a second direction to release the braking members from contact with the guide rail, connecting portions of the connecting member with the pivot levers are arranged on different sides with respect to a plane containing axes of the pivot shafts, and the connecting member extends in opposite directions from the electromagnetic actuator and the electromagnetic actuator causes the connecting member to undergo reciprocating displacement along a straight line connecting between the connecting portions.

Instead, Woodruff merely discusses an enclosure 54 at the opposite end of the safety channel 52 that includes a safety spring block assembly 56. A threaded link rod 116 is connected via pivot 118 and a pickup shaft 120 to the lever 112 at the opposite end. Please see the discussion regarding Fig. 7 in col. 4, lines 42-46. Woodruff does not teach or suggest a connecting member that extends in opposite directions from the electromagnetic actuator and undergoes reciprocating displacement along a straight line connecting between the connecting portions of the connecting member with the pivot levers.

In accordance with one or more embodiments of the present invention as shown with respect to Fig. 11 for example, the safety device includes a pair of pivot levers connected to each other by the connecting member. The pivot levers are pivoted simultaneously through the reciprocating displacement of the connecting member by the actuator. The safety device can be actuated by inputting a signal to the actuator, thereby actuating the safety device in a short time after detection of an abnormality in the car. As a result, the braking distance can be reduced for the car. Further, the plurality of wedges can be displaced simultaneously by actuating one electromagnetic actuator, whereby the number of parts can be reduced to achieve a reduction in cost. Even further, the requisite strength of the connecting member can be made smaller, and the size of the safety device can be reduced.

The features of the claimed invention are not taught in the applied art and therefore, the applied art cannot provide at least the advantages discussed above.

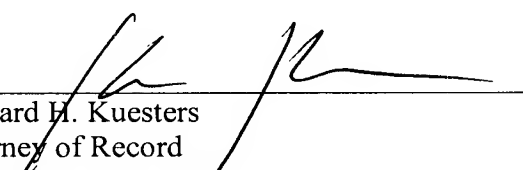
Withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Woodruff is respectfully requested.

Consequently, for the reasons discussed in detail above, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. Therefore, a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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